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Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1946

C. J. Lewis. (Ashby) Ltd.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council

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Medical Officer of Health
1946

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

(1) *Medical Officer of Health (part time) :*
A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

(2) *Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (full time) :*
GEORGE E. MARLOW, M. Inst. Mun. E., Cert. R.S.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the Sanitary State of your District for the year 1946.

My thanks are due to Mr. G. E. Marlow, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable help, without which it would have been impossible for me to compile this report.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
A. McM. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	6,190 acres.
Population	5,895
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,774
Rateable Value	£36,366
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£151 0s. 0d.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are:—Agriculture, Coalmining, Earthenware, Brickmaking, Biscuit making and Soap manufacturing. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	110	56	54
Illegitimate	9	7	2
	119	63	56

Birth Rate—20.2 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate— 19.1 per 1,000 population.

STILL BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	3	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	3	3	0

Still Birth Rate—.51 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate—0.53 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS	Total	Male	Female
	69	31	38

Death Rate—11.7 per 1,000 population.
Death Rate—11.5 per 1,000 population England and Wales.

Causes of Death in 1946.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	2	0	2
Cancer of Buc. Cav. Oesoph. M. Uterus F.	2	0	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	4	4
Cancer of the Breast ...	0	2	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	2	4	6
Intracranial Vasc. Lesions ...	1	7	8
Heart Disease	11	10	21
Pneumonia	2	0	2
Other Digve Disease ...	1	1	2
Nephritis	0	1	1
Premature Birth	2	0	2
Congenital Malf : etc. ...	3	3	6
Accident	0	1	1
Other Violent Causes ...	2	1	3
All other Causes	3	4	7
Total	31	38	69

Death Rate from Puerperal Causes :- 0 per 1,000.
Live and Still Births (England and Wales, 1.43).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	9	5	4
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0
	9	5	4

Death Rate under 1 year of age—75 per 1,000 Live Births (England and Wales)—43 per 1,000 Live Births.

Chief Causes of Death in 1946 :—

Heart Disease ...	21
Cancer (all forms) ...	14
Intracranial Vas. Lesions	8
Cong. Malf and Birth Injuries, and Inf. Diseases	6

The figures for England and Wales are provisional, based on weekly and quarterly returns.

SECTION B

Hospitals.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

General. Leicester Royal Infirmary, Burton Infirmary, Ashby Cottage Hospital and The County Public Assistance Institutions.

Infectious Disease. Hospitals are provided by the Leicestershire County Council—Markfield (76 beds), Melton Mowbray (32). Hinckley (23), Blaby (17).

Smallpox. Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston (15 beds) and Snarestone (23 beds).

Tuberculosis. The County Sanitorium at Markfield with 214 beds is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of all types of Tuberculosis. Operations on cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis from the County are performed at Leicester City Isolation Hospital.

A number of Institutions including the following are available for the treatment of cases from the County : City General Hospital, Leicester; Harlow Wood, Orthopaedic Hospital, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire; Warwickshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Coleshill.

Maternity. Provision is made for cases requiring Institutional treatment in the Burton Infirmary and Leicester Royal Infirmary. Ashby Cottage Hospital is much used by residents from your Area and from the surrounding Areas. Fairhaven Nursing and Maternity Home is also available for cases of Midwifery.

Children. Children are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary, Burton Infirmary, Loughborough General Hospital. Ashby Cottage Hospital admit children for the removal of Tonsils and Adenoids. Warwickshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Coleshill, is also available for Orthopaedic Cases.

Other. Delicate and ill-nourished children are admitted at the Children's Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves.

Scabies Cases are admitted to Melton Mowbray Public Assistance Institution.

Laboratory Facilities. Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the County Council Laboratory, 8, St. Martin's, Leicester. The examinations performed on behalf of the District are as follows:

Milk Examinations (Bacteriological) ...	59
Milk for Phosphatase Test	21
Sputa for T.B.	10
Swabs for Diphtheria	6
Urine (General and Bacteriological) ...	1
Blood Counts	3
Blood for Wassermann Test	2
Films for Gonococci	3
Total	105

Public Health Laboratory. Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester. Other work such as the examination of blood and faeces for Typhoid and Dysentry is carried out here, material for immunisation and vaccination is also available here.

Ambulance Facilities. Infectious Diseases are removed by Ambulances provided by the Leicestershire County Council.

Non-Infectious Diseases and Civilian accidents. The St. John Ambulance Brigade (Coalville and Church Gresley) provides an Ambulance. An interim Ambulance Service was established in 1945, by the County Council by arrangement with the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council also provides an Ambulance Service.

Colliery accidents are provided with Ambulances maintained by the Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coal Owners Association.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. These are provided by the County Council. An Infant Welfare Centre is held every Thursday afternoon in the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The nearest School Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at Bridge Road, Coalville. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly at Coalville. Veneral Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary and Burton Infirmary. Cases of Scabies are treated at Swadlincote Urban District Council Treatment Centre.

Health Visiting. This is provided by the County Council, and the work of health visitor, school nurse and tuberculosis visitor is combined in a single appointment. This work is carried out very ably by Miss Seabrook and her reports and willing co-operation are always available In a Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign persuasion through the health visitor is the most potent form of propaganda.

Nursing in the Home. There is a District Nurse resident in the Area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply. The whole District is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote joint Water Committee from the Milton Water Works. There are still a few wells in use. No samples were taken for analysis during the year.

No. of wells closed - 4. Number of wells cleansed—Nil.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water—4.

Number of parishes with piped water supply :—

(*a*) From Public Mains—Whole area.
(*b*) From Private Reservoirs—Nil.

Number of parishes without a piped water supply—Nil.

The quality of the existing supplies is satisfactory. The water exhibits no plumbo-Solvent properties. It has been necessary on a number of occasions to restrict water supplies owing to a shortage of water at the source of supply. Steps are being taken to obtain additional sources of supply.

No extensions of the Public Water supply were carried out in 1946.

Post War Proposals. The extension of Water Mains in Nottingham Road.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Number of cesspools constructed during the year.—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—Nil.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st Dec., 1946—147.

Particulars of any extension during the year :—

(*a*) Sewerage—Nil.
(*b*) Sewage disposal—Nil.

Post War Proposals. The provision of a system of Sewerage for Blackfordby and the extension of Willesley Sewage Disposal Works to deal with Sewege from Blackfordby Village and Westfield Housing Estate.

The extension of Sewers to Leicester Road, New Packington, Upper Packington Road and Nottingham Road and the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works at Packington.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number in District on 31st December, 1946 :—

(*a*)	Privies	66
(*b*)	Pail closets	56
(*c*)	Water closets	1,120

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year.

(*a*)	Privies	Nil.
(*b*)	Pail closets	One.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year : Nil.

Public Cleansing. House refuse is collected weekly by Council workmen with a covered motor vehicle, and conveyed to a tip where it is deposited in shallow layers, and covered with earth. 86 New Ashbins were provided in place of unsuitable or defective receptacles.

Earth closets, privies and ashpits are cleansed by Council workmen, the contents being disposed of on arable land, and ploughed in.

At Blackfordby, the removal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth closets and privies is carried out by a Contractor and dealt with in a manner similar to the rest of the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of complaints received during 1946	63
Total number of defects and nuisances discovered	217

Particulars of Inspections Made

Type of Inspection	*Number of Inspections*	*Number of Revisits*
Animal Keeping	6	2
Bakehouses	6	3
Dairies and Cowsheds	47	15
Drainage Works	26	8
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	106	43
Food Premises	78	24
Offensive Trades	2	-
Rats and Mice Destruction ...	25	6
Refuse Collection and Disposal	61	23
Schools	4	2

Shops	16	2
Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection	10	0
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	1	0
Verminous Premises and Scabies	1	1
Water Supplies	64	21
Workshops, etc.	14	6
Other Inspections	106	34
Totals	573	190

Results of Notices Sent

Preliminary Notices

	Housing	*Public Health*
Outstanding on 1st January, 1946 ...	7	5
Issued during year	61	93
Complied with during year	60	92
Statutory action necessary	1	0
Outstanding 31st December, 1946 ...	6	6

Statutory Notices

	Housing	*Public Health*
Outstanding on 1st January, 1946 ...	0	0
Issued during year	1	0
Complied with during year	1	0
Outstanding 31st December, 1946 ...	0	0

Summary Action : Number of summonses issued—Nil. Number of convictions obtained—Nil.

Shops. Particulars of action taken during year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

	Outstanding 1st Jan., 1946	*Defects found*	*Defects remedied*	*Outstanding 31st Dec.*, 1946
Sanitary Conveniences	0	2	2	0
Temperature	0	0	0	0
Ventilation	0	0	0	0

Camping sites. Nil.

Regulated Buildings.

Class of Building	*No. in District*	*No. of Inspections*	*Action Taken*	*General Conditions*
Common Lodging Houses ...	Nil	0	0	0
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	1	1	0	0 satisfactory
Canal Boats ...	Nil	0	0	0
Offensive Trades ...	1	2	0	satisfactory

Eradication of Bed Bugs. Particulars of action taken :—

Number of Council Houses infested 0

Number of other dwelling houses infested ... 1

Number of houses disinfested 1

The disinfestation was carried out by the Local Authority by spraying with D.D.T. fluid and dusting with D.D.T. powder. There were no removals to Council houses during the year.

Schools. All the Schools are supplied with Water from the Public Main and all are on the Water Carriage System except Blackfordby Church of England School.

Schools Disinfected 0

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

No. in Area : —

(*a*) Publicly owned 1

(*b*) Privately owned ... ... Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply :

Cowkeepers—

Number on Register 38

Number of Inspections made 48

Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year 2

Number of contravenions found during the year ... 14

Number of contraventions remedied during year ...	13
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1946	3

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers) –

Number on Register	10
Number of Inspections made	14
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	0
Number of contraventions found during year ...	6
Number of contraventions remedied during year ...	6
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1945	0

Total Contraventions.

Type of	*Outstanding from previous year*	*Found during year*	*Remedied during year*	*Outstanding on 31st Dec., 1946*
Cleansing	2	9	10	1
Structural Alterations	0	3	2	1
Utensils	0	0	0	0
Other	0	8	7	1

Milk Sampling.

Class of Milk	*Total samples taken for bact. exam'n.*	*Number Satisfactory*	*Number Unsatisfactory*
Tuberculin Tested	0	0	0
Accredited	0	0	0
Pasteurised	12	10	2
Ordinary	4	2	2

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936—1941.

Three licences were issued during the year, one for a Pasteurising Plant, one for Supplementary Retail Distribution of Pasteurised Milk and one for a Bottling Licence.

The Pasteurising Plant for which the Licence was issued, was of the Holder type, capacity 100 gallons per hour, hand temperature controlled.

Number of Plants for heating milk not licenced as Pasteurising Plants—Nil.

Number of Authorities issued by Ministry of Food under Regulation 55G :

(*a*) Heat Treatment—Nil. (*b*) Sterilisation—Nil.

Meat and Other Foods.

No. of Regional Slaughter Houses in Area ...	Nil
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	10
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	1
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	4

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Number Killed	10 pigs
Number inspected	10 pigs
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1

No carcase was found to be affected with Tuberculosis.

Meat Stalls.

Number of Inspections ... ... Nil.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

Number of Inspections 30

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.

Number of Inspections 48

Action taken :—

The following is a list of food condemned and destroyed :—

Meat	218 lbs.
,, ...	28 tins
Sausage	45 lbs.
Bacon	24 lbs.
Fish	154 lbs.
,, ...	30 tins
Jam	5 jars
Soup	24 tins
Vegetables	5 tins
Fruit	10 tins
Cheese	6 lbs.
Apples	130 lbs.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 91

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 149

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 0

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 0

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation ... 28

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year Without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 24

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(*a*) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 0

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 0

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(*d*) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 0

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding:

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 9

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 16

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 61

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year 2

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year 1

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 6

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again beceme overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0

Post War Housing. Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end of year—350.

Programme of New Houses to be erected by the Local Authority:

First year ..... 75. Second year 75

Preparation of Housing Sites. The preparation of a site for the erection of 150 Houses has been completed and 50 houses are in course of erection at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. A site for the erection of 40 Houses at Blackfordby has been acquired and lay out plans submitted to the Ministry for approval.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1944.

Disease	*Final numbers after Correction*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Measles	12	0	0
Pneumonia	5	0	2
Dysentery	1	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	0
Malaria	2	0	0
	28	1	2

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Age Period	*Pneumonia*	*Dysentery*	*Erysipelas*	*Measles*	*Puerperal Pyrexia*	*Cerebro-Spinal Fever*	*Malaria*
0 - 1	1	0	0	0			
1 - 3	0	0	0	3			
3 - 5	1	0	0	2			
5 - 10	0	0	0	7			
10 - 15	0	0	0	0			
15 - 25	1	0	0	0	1		
25 - 45	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
45 - 65	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
65 and over	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	1	2	12	5	1	2

Measles was the only disease notified in any numbers during the year. There were no cases of Diptheria.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Total number immunised to 31st December, 1946

Age at 31.12.46 i.e. Born in the Year	*Under* 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943
Number Immunised	1	47	50	33

Age at 31.12.46 i.e. Born in the Year	4 1942	5-9 1937-1941	10-14 1932-1946	*Total under* 15
Number Immunised	30	294	334	789

Estimated mid year population 1946	0-5 490	5-14 862	*Total* 1352

Number Immunised during 1946.

Under 5 years of age	.....	84
5-14	.....	61
		— *Total* 145
No. who have received a 3rd injection		8

TUBERCULOSIS

Four cases were notified during the year, three Pulmonary and and one Non-Pulmonary. No deaths occurred. One case was removed from Register having left the district.

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1946.

Pulmonary			*Non-Pulmonary*		
Males	*Female*	*Total*	*Males*	*Female*	*Total*
7	2	9	5	2	7

HEALTH
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